



Environmental attitudes and political partisanship

Author(s): DeNicola E, Subramaniam PR
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Abstract:

Objective: To explore the impact of political partisanship on environmental attitudes related to climate change in United States and its implications for public health. Study design: An integrative literature review. Methods: A literature review of English articles was performed from January 2013 to March 2013 using the following databases: CINAHL, PubMed, Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier, ERIC, psychINFO, and Wiley Online Library. Empirical and review articles and Internet sources were included. Results: Continued mass emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases will exacerbate the consequences of global warming and climate change. As one of the key global contributors of carbon emissions, the lack of climate change policy and regulatory practices at the federal level in the United States is of great concern. Political partisanship in the US is largely to blame for this inaction, as efforts for drastic remediation action is met with rejection from conservative groups who do not believe that global warming and climate change are a problem, despite scientific evidence to the contrary. To promote the health of the entire population, there needs to be a paradigm shift from consumption driven economic growth as advocated by the Republicans to a realization of true prosperity beyond growth in order to create a sustainable world. Conclusion: This presents a critical challenge to public health professionals as political partisanship has the power to impact environmental attitudes and have serious implications for public health. Preserving the environment must take precedence over economic growth if we want a habitable planet low in carbon.

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Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

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Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Sea Level Rise, Temperature, Unspecified Exposure

Air Pollution: Allergens

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen, Pathogen

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Urban

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Malnutrition/Undernutrition, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Cardiovascular Effect: Other Cardiovascular Effect

Cardiovascular Disease (other): cardiovascular mortality

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria


Mental Health Effect/Stress: Other Mental Disorder

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup, Workers

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: racial, ethnic and indigenous minorities

Other Vulnerable Population: disabled; people in poor health; people with mental illness

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Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Policy/Opinion, Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content